

## **SEATTLE ART MUSEUM**

### **Proposed Sculpture Park on the Seattle Waterfront**

The Seattle Art Museum (SAM) has been working to acquire Unocal's former Seattle Marketing Terminal on the downtown waterfront. The property would be developed as public open space dedicated to the exhibition of outdoor sculpture. Although specific site plans have not yet been developed, conceptual planning calls for pedestrian trails that provide public access through the exhibition area and to the waterfront, landscaped green space, a small building designed to house visitor services, interior exhibitions and park programming facilities, and an underground parking garage. Small accessory structures may also be constructed on site to house restrooms, concessions, and other visitor services.

The two main parcels of the property, now currently separated by Elliott Avenue, will be connected to each other and to Myrtle Edwards Park and the waterfront via a double-span or two separate pedestrian bridges. These bridges will address a longstanding desire by adjacent residential neighborhoods to have safer and more pleasant access to the waterfront and Myrtle Edwards Park. In addition to improving access, the bridges will be designed to become strong visual features for the park. Discussions are also underway concerning making a pedestrian and bicycle connection between the Seattle Center, the sculpture park, and the waterfront. This would warrant designing the bridges to be bicycle accessible as well.

The design of the sculpture park will be influenced by a Master Plan that may be jointly contracted by the Seattle Art Museum and the City of Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation. Under a proposed Master Plan process, redevelopment of the Unocal site could occur simultaneously with redevelopment of the City-owned Alaskan Way right-of-way and Myrtle Edwards Park. A cohesive design process could further three preliminary design goals for this larger park area: increased exposure to and knowledge of 3-dimensional sculpture as a visual art form; improving and expanding open space for downtown residents, office workers, and visitors; and enhancing native habitat within Seattle's urban environment.

Improvement to the Off-Site Area will be made in partnership with the City of Seattle, who currently maintains the property as public right-of-way. This includes removing a portion of the paved parking area, relocating or redesigning the streetcar maintenance facility, expanding the pedestrian sidewalk into a bicycle path from Myrtle Edwards to Broad Street, and replanting certain portions of the former street with native plants. Planning discussions have also included a small floating pier or dock that would be

attached to the existing seawall and would be used for fishing, close observation of marine life and perhaps a human-powered boat launch. The attached conceptual layouts (Figures 1, 2, and 3) propose initial design ideas for the new park. Figure 3 does not include redevelopment of Alaskan Way. Final locations for structures and pathways have not yet been determined and are presented for illustrative purposes only.

In addition to the site use plans, SAM, in consultation with geotechnical engineers has also developed initial conceptual design plans related to other aspects of the park's infrastructure, including cap or site cover plans, vapor extraction systems, specifications for tree plantings, and footings for large-scale sculptures. These are presented on Figures 4 through 12. These are also presented for discussion purposes and not as final design.

For more information, please contact:

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